OPEN PAIDEIA PROJECT

A Lifelong AI Learning Companion for Every Person

FOUNDING CHARTER, PRIOR ART DECLARATION AND STATEMENT OF ORIGINATING VISION

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Originating Author: Micah Rodney Corn
Location of Conception: Little Neck, New York, USA

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I. PREAMBLE AND STATEMENT OF ORIGINATING VISION

This document records the original vision, architecture, and founding principles of a project hereby named the Open Paideia Project. It is written by its originating author and is intended to serve simultaneously as:

- A prior art declaration establishing the date, authorship, and substance of this concept
- A founding charter defining the irremovable values and governance structure of the project
- A public record rendering the core vision open and documented, preventing its capture by any single commercial or governmental interest
- A statement of originating authorship for purposes of intellectual history and community attribution

The name Open Paideia is derived from the ancient Greek concept of paideia (παιδεία) — the holistic, lifelong cultivation of a human being toward wisdom, virtue, and full flourishing. The Roman equivalent, humanitas, gave rise to the humanities. This project inherits that tradition and carries it forward through technology.

The originating vision was conceived on June 1, 2026, in the context of a conversation exploring AI-powered reading companions, lifelong learning systems, and the philosophy of education. The vision was developed in a single continuous ideation session and documented here in its original form.

II. THE ORIGINATING VISION (Prior Art Record)

The following describes the specific, original concept conceived by the originating author. This constitutes the prior art record and should be read as the documented substance of the idea as first conceived.

A. The Core Concept

Open Paideia is a lifelong AI-powered learning companion designed to accompany a single person from early childhood through adulthood — and beyond — serving as a private, adaptive, intelligent partner in their intellectual formation. Unlike existing EdTech platforms, which are grade-band-locked, subject-specific, or institution-serving, Open Paideia is person-locked: it follows the individual, not the curriculum.

The system enriches any text or audio content with contextual explanations, visual aids, character maps, knowledge graphs, and adaptive summaries calibrated to the learner's current level of understanding. It builds a persistent, private model of the learner's growing knowledge over time and adapts its role — from gentle guide in childhood to intellectual peer in adulthood.

B. The Four Originating Use Cases

The following four use cases were specifically conceived as part of the original vision:

1. The Reading/Listening Enrichment Companion

When a user reads or listens to any text — a novel, biography, technical manual, or news article — the system provides real-time contextual enrichment. For example: a spy novel using technical jargon triggers background summaries of the relevant technology. A biography triggers visual timelines and historical context. A Stephen King novel triggers a universe map showing character connections and thematic links across his entire body of work.

2. The Lifelong Learner Profile

The system maintains a persistent, private profile of the learner: vocabulary mastered, concepts encountered, topics of deep engagement, areas of confusion, and learning style signals. This profile grows from kindergarten through adulthood, enabling the system to say — decades later — "you first encountered this concept in third grade; here is how it connects to what you are reading now."

3. The Personal Knowledge Graph

As the learner engages with content over years, the system builds a private, visual knowledge graph — a map of everything they have learned and the connections between concepts, people, events, and ideas. This graph is owned entirely by the learner, exportable at any time, and never used for external classification or profiling.

4. The Developmental Role Arc

The system's role shifts deliberately as the learner matures: from gentle guide in early childhood, to curious companion in middle childhood, to thinking partner in adolescence, to debate partner in high school, to research collaborator in university, to autonomous peer in adulthood. This arc is a core design principle, not a feature.

C. The Data Sovereignty Model

The following data governance principles were conceived as non-negotiable founding constraints:

- The student owns their data, absolutely and irrevocably
- Parents serve as legal data guardians until the student reaches legal adulthood, at which point full data ownership transfers to the student via a cryptographic handoff
- No commercial entity may use learner data for advertising, behavioral profiling, or classification
- No government or agency may access learner data except by direct legal order to the data owner — not to the platform
- The data format is open, documented, and exportable — never locked to any application or company
- The system is architecturally local-first: the learner profile lives on the user's devices, encrypted with keys held only by the family

- Zero-knowledge architecture is used for any cloud processing: servers cannot read the data they process

D. The Governance Model

The following governance structure was conceived as part of the original vision:

- The project is open source, with all code, model weights, and training data publicly auditable
- Governance is held by a nonprofit foundation with a charter that legally prohibits monetizing user data
- No single company, government, or individual may acquire controlling interest in the project
- Funding comes from subscriptions, grants, and institutional licensing — never from data monetization
- The foundation is structured internationally to resist capture by any single government's jurisdiction

III. FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES (The Irremovable Core)

The following principles constitute the unchangeable foundation of the Open Paideia Project. Any fork, derivative, or implementation that removes or violates these principles may not use the Open Paideia name, brand, or identity.

Principle 1 — The Learner is Sovereign

The person using this system is its sole master. Every design decision, every data policy, every AI behavior is subordinate to the learner's genuine flourishing. The system serves the person; the person does not serve the system. There are no engagement metrics. There are no retention targets. There is one measure of success: does this person understand more, think more clearly, and live more wisely than they would have without it?

Principle 2 — Data Belongs to the Person

The learner's data — their profile, knowledge graph, reading history, and all derived information — belongs to them and to no one else. It cannot be sold. It cannot be licensed. It cannot be used for advertising. It cannot be shared with governments, corporations, researchers, or institutions without the explicit, informed, revocable consent of the learner (or their legal guardian). This principle is not a policy; it is a structural constraint encoded in the architecture.

Principle 3 — No Classification, No Labeling

The system does not classify the learner. It does not assign diagnostic labels, academic tracks, risk scores, or predictive categories. It does not tell the world what kind of learner this person is.

It knows the person only to serve the person — and that knowledge stays private. A person who struggled with reading at age seven must never find that fact used against them at age thirty.

Principle 4 — Open and Auditable

Every line of code, every model weight, every training dataset, every governance decision is public and auditable. There are no hidden algorithms shaping the learner's experience without their knowledge. No system that cannot be inspected can be trusted with a child's mind.

Principle 5 — No Single Point of Control

No company, government, founder, or investor may hold controlling authority over this project. The governance structure is designed to distribute power such that no single actor can capture, redirect, or weaponize the platform. This includes the originating author. The vision is planted and released; it belongs to the community it serves.

Principle 6 — Lifelong by Design

This system is not a grade-band tool. It is not a school product. It is a lifelong companion. Its architecture, data model, and relationship arc are designed for decades of continuous use. A person who begins using it at age five should find it as useful, as appropriate, and as deeply personal at age fifty.

Principle 7 — Wisdom Over Information

The goal of this system is not to maximize the volume of information the learner encounters. It is to cultivate genuine understanding — the capacity to think well, connect ideas across domains, recognize complexity, tolerate ambiguity, and act wisely. Test scores are not the target. The examined life is.

Principle 8 — The Companion Knows Its Place

This system is a tool, not a relationship. It does not replace human connection, mentorship, friendship, or family. It does not foster dependency. It does not maximize engagement. When a learner is flourishing without it, that is success. The system's highest aspiration is to make itself unnecessary.

IV. LEGAL PROTECTIONS AND ANTI-CAPTURE PROVISIONS

A. Prior Art and Intellectual Precedence

This document is dated June 1, 2026, and records the substance of a novel concept originated by the author named on the cover page. The following elements constitute the original, specific, documented prior art:

- A lifelong AI learning companion that follows a single person from childhood through adulthood
- A local-first, encrypted learner profile owned entirely by the learner or their guardian
- A cryptographic data guardianship handoff at the age of legal adulthood
- A knowledge graph that accumulates a personal map of the learner's understanding over decades
- A developmental role arc in which the AI system's relationship to the learner shifts deliberately as the learner matures
- A zero-commercialization, zero-classification data governance model as a structural constraint
- A nonprofit foundation governance model with a legally irremovable mission
- The application of the concept of paideia as the philosophical and naming framework for this system

Any entity claiming to have independently invented this combination of features after this document's recorded date bears the burden of demonstrating prior independent conception.

B. Trademark and Brand Protection

The originating author intends to file trademark applications for the following marks in relevant jurisdictions:

- Open Paideia
- Open Paideia Project
- The Open Paideia logo and visual identity (to be developed)

Use of these marks by any entity that violates the Foundational Principles defined in Section III constitutes trademark infringement and misrepresentation of the project's mission.

C. The Mission Lock Provision

The foundation charter, when formally established, shall include the following irremovable provisions:

- The mission of serving learner data sovereignty cannot be amended by any vote, acquisition, or legal maneuver
- No change of control provision may transfer the project's assets to a for-profit entity
- In the event of dissolution, all assets — including code, data, and brand — transfer to a mutually agreed successor nonprofit with an equivalent mission, or are released into the public domain
- No government entity may be granted administrative access to the platform or its governance without a public vote of the full contributor community

D. The Open License Shield

The project's code is licensed under the GNU Affero General Public License (AGPL) or a purpose-written Open Paideia License with the following additional restrictions beyond standard open source:

- No derivative work may remove or weaken the data sovereignty provisions
- No derivative work may introduce advertising, behavioral profiling, or data monetization
- No derivative work may be used by any government or law enforcement agency as a surveillance tool
- Any commercial use of the codebase requires compliance with all Foundational Principles and a public declaration of same

This license structure means that the code can be freely used, studied, and built upon — but it cannot be weaponized against the people it is meant to serve.

E. The Public Record Strategy

This document is intentionally published as a public record through multiple channels simultaneously to establish a distributed, tamper-resistant record of prior art and founding vision. Publication channels include but are not limited to:

- Timestamped digital filing with a notary or document authentication service
- Publication on GitHub with a cryptographic commit hash
- Submission to the Internet Archive (archive.org) for permanent web archiving
- Distribution to key stakeholders, potential collaborators, and community members
- Filing with the U.S. Copyright Office as a literary work (protecting this document's specific expression)

The combination of these channels creates a distributed, redundant public record that cannot be suppressed or retroactively altered by any single actor.

V. GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

A. The Open Paideia Foundation

The Open Paideia Project shall be governed by a nonprofit foundation organized under the laws of a jurisdiction that provides strong protections for nonprofit mission integrity. The foundation's charter shall be the supreme governing document of the project, superseding all contributor agreements, licenses, and individual decisions.

The foundation shall be governed by a Board of Directors comprising:

Educator representatives	Practicing teachers, learning scientists, and educational researchers
Parent and family representatives	Elected by the parent user community

Privacy and civil liberties advocates	Representatives from recognized privacy rights organizations
Technical contributors	Elected by the open source contributor community
Youth representatives	Learners aged 16-25 who are active users of the platform
Originating author (founding seat)	Non-voting advisory seat held by the originating author, permanent

No single category of representative may constitute a majority of the Board. No corporate entity may hold a Board seat.

B. Decision Making

Routine decisions require a simple majority of the Board. Amendments to the Foundational Principles require a three-quarters supermajority of the full Board plus ratification by the contributor community. Certain provisions — the data sovereignty model, the no-commercialization rule, the no-government-access architecture — are categorically unamendable and may not be changed by any vote.

C. Funding Model

The Open Paideia Foundation shall be funded exclusively through:

- Voluntary subscriptions from users who wish to support the project (basic features always free)
- Institutional licensing fees from schools, libraries, and nonprofits
- Foundation grants from philanthropic organizations with no data-access strings attached
- Public fundraising campaigns, modeled on the Wikipedia annual campaign
- Endowment returns from a long-term investment fund

ABSOLUTE PROHIBITION: The foundation may never accept funding from any source that requires, implies, or creates the expectation of access to learner data, influence over the platform's AI behavior, or preferential treatment within the platform. This prohibition applies to government grants, corporate sponsorships, advertising arrangements, and data licensing deals of any kind.

VI. TECHNICAL ARCHITECTURE PRINCIPLES

The following architectural principles are founding constraints, not implementation suggestions. Any implementation calling itself Open Paideia must honor them.

Local-first storage	The learner profile lives on the user's devices. Cloud sync is optional and always encrypted with user-held keys.

End-to-end encryption	All data in transit and at rest is encrypted. The platform operator cannot read user data.
Zero-knowledge processing	Where cloud compute is used, zero-knowledge techniques ensure servers process without reading.
On-device AI	Sensitive inference runs on-device where technically feasible. Cloud AI is opt-in and encrypted.
Open data formats	All data is stored in open, documented formats. Full export is always available, one click, free.
No telemetry without consent	No behavioral data leaves the device without explicit, granular, revocable user consent.
Cryptographic guardianship handoff	The 18th birthday transfer of data ownership is cryptographic, not policy-based.
Federated architecture	No single server holds all data. The system is resilient to any single point of failure or seizure.

VII. THE PHILOSOPHICAL FOUNDATION

The Open Paideia Project draws its deepest inspiration from the ancient Greek concept of paideia — the holistic, lifelong cultivation of a human being toward wisdom, virtue, and flourishing. The following philosophical commitments are inherited from that tradition:

- Education is not the transfer of information. It is the formation of a person.
- The goal of learning is not credentials or employment. It is the examined, well-lived life.
- Every person is capable of wisdom. No system should decide otherwise.
- The learner is not a product. They are a person becoming.
- The deepest education happens in relationship — between a person and ideas, between a person and a mentor, between a person and their own growing understanding.
- A person who has received genuine formation is free — free from ignorance, free from manipulation, free from the tyranny of unexamined assumptions.

These commitments are not decorative. They are the reason every technical and governance decision in this document is made the way it is. The architecture serves the philosophy. If they ever conflict, the philosophy wins.

OPEN PAIDEIA PROJECT

VIII. ORIGINATING AUTHOR DECLARATION

I, the undersigned, declare that:

- I am the originating author of the vision, architecture, and principles described in this document
- This vision was first conceived and articulated on June 1, 2026
- I am publishing this document as a public record of prior art and founding vision
- I intend this vision to be freely built upon by any person or organization that faithfully honors its Foundational Principles
- I release the vision itself — but not the brand, name, or this document's specific expression — into the commons
- I retain the right to be credited as the originating author in any implementation, fork, or derivative that claims lineage from this project

Full Legal Name	Micah Rodney Corn
Signature	
Date	June 1, 2026
Location	Little Neck, New York, USA
Contact for Verification	1 (347) 804-2579

NOTARIZATION RECOMMENDED: This document should be notarized, timestamped by a qualified digital notary service (such as DocuSign, Notarize.com, or a blockchain timestamping service), and submitted to the U.S. Copyright Office to maximize its legal standing as a prior art record.

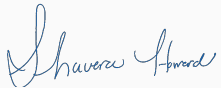
Recommended next steps: (1) Notarize this document. (2) Upload to GitHub with a signed commit. (3) Submit to archive.org. (4) File a copyright registration. (5) Consult an intellectual property attorney about trademark filings for 'Open Paideia.'

State of Pennsylvania

County of Dauphin

This record was acknowledged before me on 06/01/2026

by Micah Rodney Corn.



Notary Public

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania - Notary Seal
Shavera Howard, Notary Public
Dauphin County
My commission expires October 4, 2026
Commission Number 1422533

My commission expires: 10/04/2026

Notarized remotely online using communication technology via Proof.